



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

Co-Creating Sustainable Futures

MKSU NEWSLETTER

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MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY RECEIVES CERTIFICATE OF GOOD DEFECTS FOR SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS COMPLETION

On 5th September 2024, Machakos University was awarded a Certificate of Good Defects by officials from the State Department of Public Works, led by Eng. D.N Munyingi. The certificate was presented to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Joyce Agalo, in recognition of the successful completion of three key university projects: the Removal of Asbestos, Refurbishment of the Staff Common Room, and Installation of High & Low Water Tanks.



The ceremony was attended by several key university leaders, including the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration, Planning, and Finance), Prof. Mugendi K. M'Rithaa; Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation, and Linkages), Prof. Stanley Makindi; Registrar Administration and Planning Dr. Humphrey Omondi; The Clerk of Works, Dr. Clement Mbatha; and Members of the Contract Implementation Committee.

In her remarks, Prof. Agalo expressed her heartfelt gratitude for the timely and successful completion of the projects, praising the collaborative efforts of all the teams involved. She emphasized the university's commitment to creating a safe, sustainable, and environment-friendly campus, noting that these projects contribute significantly to making Machakos University a welcoming place for everyone.

DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT FOURTH YEAR STUDENTS HOSTS SENATE

On Tuesday, 3rd September 2024, fourth-year students from the Department of Hospitality and Tourism at Machakos University showcased their skills by hosting the University Senate during a practical session for their Food and Beverage Project. The event was an opportunity for the students to demonstrate their competency in food preparation, presentation, and beverage services.

Under the guidance of their instructors, Dr. Alice Nzioka and Mrs. Jane Odeni, the students

displayed remarkable professionalism and creativity, impressing the Senate members with their mastery of hospitality and culinary arts. The event allowed the students to put theory into practice, highlighting their preparedness for the dynamic food and beverage industry.

On behalf of the Senate, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Joyce Agalo, commended the students for their excellence and hard work, noting that such practical experiences are vital in shaping graduates who are ready to excel in the workforce.



ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME STAFF & STUDENT MOBILITY EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES

Machakos University through the Division of RIL has entered into Inter-Institutional Agreements under the framework of the European exchange programme Erasmus+ KA1 International Credit Mobility Project with the following Partner Universities in Europe for the period 2023-2027.

RETURN OF THE FIRST COHORT OF 5 STUDENTS FROM RIGA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, LATVIA

The first cohort of five students who participated in the Inter-Institutional Agreement between Riga Technical University (RTU), Latvia, and Machakos University successfully completed their exchange program in July 2024. From September 2023 to June 2024, the students fully immersed themselves in their respective courses at RTU. The students in this cohort are Lemiso Godwin, Shallon Maria, Lisa Atieno, Kelvin Njoroge, and Brayan James Mburu.

The students successfully completed the exchange programme, attending classes from September 24th, 2023 to June 22nd, 2024. In addition to gaining academic knowledge, they developed a strong appreciation for the Latvian language, which will undoubtedly serve as a valuable asset in their future careers.

Beyond academics, the students formed lasting friendships with peers from around the world, expanding their global network, a benefit that will enhance both their professional and personal lives.



From left: Lemiso, Lisa, Prof. Makindi, Kelvin, Bryan and Shallon



The students with their friends at RTU during the Riga Mathon, Latvia on 1st October, 2023



The Students and their friends at RTU



The students having fun in Cairo, Egypt during Visa application to Latvia.

THE 2ND COHORT OF 2 STUDENTS ARRIVED IN RTU LAST WEEK ON 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2024.

The second cohort of students travelled to Riga Technical University, Latvia on 13th September, 2024. The two students, Wegdeger Sindani Mugatsia from the School of Agriculture, Environment and Health Science and Ariel Matara from the School of Engineering and Technology will be in Latvia from September, 2024 to January, 2025.



Wegdeger and Ariel at the Kenyan Embassy in Cairo , Egypt with the Kenyan Ambassador and their host during visa application to Latvia.



Wegdeger and Ariel at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, en route to Riga Technical University (RTU).

ONE STAFF TO TRAVEL TO RIGA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, LATVIA FOR CONSULTATION AND NETWORKING AS A CO-PI ON ONGOING AND POTENTIAL GRANT RESEARCH PROPOSAL PROJECTS

Prof. Stanley M. Makindi, from the School of Agriculture, Environment and Health Sciences and Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (RIL) will travel to Riga Technical University, Latvia, from 10th to 16th November 2024. His visit will focus on consultation and networking as a co-principal investigator on ongoing and potential grant research proposal projects.

SHORTLISTING OF STUDENTS FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER IN FEBRUARY, 2025 TO RTU IS ONGOING, DEADLINE IS 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

The shortlisting of students for the Spring 2025 semester at Riga Technical University (RTU) is currently ongoing, with a deadline of 30th September 2024.

RTU has issued a call for the participation of four (4) students from Kenya in the Erasmus+ KA171 student mobility program for the Spring 2025 semester, running from February to June 2025. This call was communicated to all staff on 26th August 2024.

The students have to go through Cairo, Egypt for Visa application and processing before proceeding to Latvia

THREE (3) STAFF TO ATTEND THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF WEEK AT UNIVERSITY OF PIRAEUS, GREECE FROM 23rd ~27th SEPTEMBER, 2024.

The following three staff members are scheduled to attend the International Staff Week at the University of Piraeus, Greece from 23rd to 27th September 2024:

Dr. Alice Nzioka – School of Business, Economics, Hospitality and Tourism Management.

Dr. Monica Masake – School of Agriculture, Environment and Health Sciences

Prof. Stanley Makindi, Ag. DVC (RIL) – School of Agriculture, Environment and Health Sciences. They will be in Greece for one week, engaging in academic exchanges and fostering international collaboration.

TUBAF ERASMUS+ PH.D TRAINEESHIP PROGRAMME ~FREIBERG UNIVERSITY

Machakos University is one of the cooperating partner in the TUBAF Erasmus+ project under Dr. Veronica Okello and Dr. Elizabeth Ndunda.

One PhD student from Machakos University is currently at the Technical University of Mining and Technology (TU BAF) in Freiberg, Germany. Additionally, a staff member from TU BAF will be visiting Machakos University for a one-week teaching mobility in September 2024.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) TRAINING TO EMPOWER STAFF AND STUDENTS


Machakos University recently held a comprehensive Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) training aimed at equipping academic staff and students with the vital knowledge on the protection and patenting of innovations, inventions and creative works. The training was facilitated by Prof. Jones Agwata, The Director of Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer, who brought a wealth of experience and expertise in intellectual property management.

The IPR training is part of the university's continuous efforts to foster a culture of innovation and research among its academic community. With the rise of technological advancements and creativity, safeguarding intellectual property has become increasingly essential. The training covered key areas including patenting processes, copyrights, trademarks, industrial designs and the importance of protecting academic and research output.



In his remarks, Prof. Agwata emphasized the critical role of IPR in enhancing the university's contribution to national and global development. He noted that understanding intellectual property rights is fundamental for students and researchers as they embark on innovation-driven projects. "We are committed to ensuring that our staff and students are well-prepared to navigate the complexities of intellectual property, from innovation to commercialization," he added.

Participants were guided through the steps of filing patents and protecting their works, while learning about the legal frameworks governing intellectual property both locally and internationally. This practical knowledge is expected to empower students and researchers to maximize the potential of their innovations while ensuring their rights are protected.



The training also highlighted the growing involvement of Machakos University students and staff in various innovation initiatives and research projects. The university is actively encouraging more students to participate in research that addresses local and global challenges, with the potential for commercialization and real-world impact.

This training is part of a broader institutional effort to foster a robust research and innovation culture at Machakos University. As more students and staff engage in cutting-edge research, the knowledge gained from this training will prove indispensable in ensuring their work is protected and that they benefit from their innovations.

MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATES AT THE 41ST INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCIENCE PARKS (IASP) CONFERENCE

Machakos University was honored to participate in the prestigious 41st International Association of Science Parks (IASP) Conference, held from 23rd to 27th September 2024. The event, hosted by Technopolis Development Authority (KoTDA) under the Ministry of Information Communications and Digital Economy, aimed to position Konza as an emerging Smart City and Science Park while offering a platform for global science park representatives to exhibit innovations from their respective countries.

The theme for the conference was “Demographics, Entrepreneurship, and Technology: Defining the Frontiers of Future Economies, which had significance in exploring the role played by Science Parks and areas of innovation in empowering regions such as Africa and Asia to harness the great potential of their growing youth demographic, entrepreneurship, and technology for economic growth. The theme would also help in addressing the challenges posed by a global population that is steadily aging.

The Conference was officially inaugurated by the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Rigathi Gachagua, whose presence signified Kenya’s growing reputation as a hub for technological innovation.

As an official partner of Konza Technopolis, Machakos University’s involvement in the conference was integral. Several international delegates and participants from the IASP conference on Monday, 23rd September, toured the University’s Luban Workshop where they were introduced to the lab’s cutting-edge infrastructure and various student-led innovations by one of the Instructors in the Luban Workshop. The visitors were received by the University Management, led by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joyce Agalo.

On Tuesday 24th September 2024, Machakos University students from the School of Engineering and Technology and the School of Pure and Applied Sciences, presented two innovative projects namely; “The Blind Eye Application” and “Robox Farm Innovation” , at Konza Technopolis. Accompanying them were Prof. David Mulwa, The Registrar of Research, Innovations and Linkages and Dr. Erick Omuya, Chair of the Department of Computing and Information Technology and also the instructor of the two projects. The talented and ambitious students showcased prowess in Artificial Intelligence (AI) in developing Application and innovations that would empower the visually impaired persons in accessibility and independence, and also assist farmers in monitoring farm data i.e. temperature, humidity, soil moisture, and NPK levels to improve productivity respectively.



MKsU student demonstrating the Robox Farm Innovation



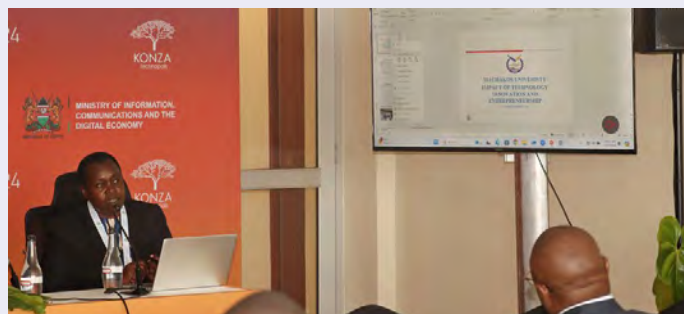
MKsU student demonstrating the Blind Eye Innovation

From Wednesday 25th to Friday 27th September, 2024 the Conference was held at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) where more innovations were displayed.

A major highlight of Machakos University’s participation occurred on 27th September when the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joyce Agalo, attended the Conference as a panelist during the Vice Chancellors’ Roundtable. In this session, she presented on the pivotal role universities play in supporting science parks and fostering emerging technologies. Prof. Agalo highlighted Machakos University’s contributions to innovation through its facilities such as the Luban Workshop, Stem power Center, Jitume Lab, Ajiry Center among other advanced technology labs within the institution.



Panelists, among them is Machakos University Vice Chancellor, Prof. Agalo during the Vice-Chancellors Roundtable Session



Machakos University Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joyce Agalo making a presentation at the Conference (KICC)

Machakos University's presence at the IASP Conference not only strengthened its partnership with Konza Technopolis but also demonstrated the University's commitment to advancing innovation and research on a global scale. The conference provided invaluable exposure for students and staff, reinforcing the University's position as a key player in technological advancement and education in Kenya.

APN~NEXT GEN UNIVERSITY SEMINAR



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joyce Agalo opening the seminar with brief opening and welcoming remarks



Ongoing Seminar session hosted at one of the Conference rooms at Machakos University Hotel and Conference Center



A group photo of Machakos University Vice Chancellor Prof. Joyce Agalo with members from APN-Next Africa University Seminar Series

MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY TO UNDERGO A SPECIAL AUDIT ON E-CITIZEN PAYMENT SYSTEM INTEGRATION.



Machakos University has been selected for a special audit scheduled to commence on Monday, 23rd September 2024. The audit, conducted by the Office of the Auditor General, will focus on evaluating the overall impact of the university's adoption of the centralized government e-Citizen payment platform.

The purpose of the audit is to assess the effectiveness of the e-Citizen platform in achieving its intended objectives, including seamless payment integration, enhanced revenue collection, and operational efficiency from various users. Key areas under review include the training and readiness of staff on the platform, the deployment and integration process, challenges faced, and the system's availability and reliability.

An opening meeting was held on 17th September, 2024 at the Machakos University Hotel between the University Management led by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joyce Agalo and representatives from the Auditor General's Office. The meeting set the tone for the audit, reaffirming the focus on determining the impact of e-Citizen as a single payment platform for revenue collection.

This audit is expected to provide critical insights that will guide the future optimization of the e-Citizen platform at Machakos University.

FEATURED RESEARCHER FOR SEPTEMBER 2024



Franklin Mutisya, a Huawei Certified ICT Academy Instructor at Machakos University, has been a pivotal figure in advancing the university's ICT education and empowering students to achieve global recognition. His dedication to mentoring and training has equipped students with the practical skills and knowledge necessary to excel in the fast-evolving technology landscape.

Under his leadership, Machakos University has garnered significant success in the Huawei ICT Competition 2023-2024 Global Finals. Among the university's top performers were Daniel Mwithui, Salem Kim Lumumba, Ian Omwenga, and Mark Omaiko Mongare. Daniel's team secured the prestigious first prize in the Network Track, while the other teams earned commendable third prizes in the Computing and Cloud Tracks. These accomplishments reflect the high standards of education and training that have fostered at the university.

A key factor in this success has been University's ability to leverage successful collaborations with Huawei Technologies Kenya. These partnerships have provided students with access to state-of-the-art resources, expert mentorship, and invaluable real-world experience, all of which have been instrumental in their achievements. Additionally, the Luban Workshop at Machakos University, through the Engineering Practice Innovation Project (EPIP) training model, has played a pivotal role in enhancing the vocational and technical skills of our students. This workshop offers hands-on training and practical applications that bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and industry expertise.

The impact of this vocational training extends beyond competition victories. It empowers our students with the tools they need to succeed in the ICT industry, contributing to the local community by fostering a skilled workforce that drives technological advancement and economic development. Through our dedicated efforts in ICT education, the support of Huawei Technologies Kenya, and initiatives like the Luban Workshop, Machakos University is not only shaping the future of our students but also making significant strides in community upliftment and regional progress.



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